

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01388 270705Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /039 W
-----048296 272123Z /64-61
R 270542Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9007

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1388

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO MADRAS
AND CALCUTTA 25 JANUARY AND IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFOR-
MATION.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0215

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJ: MAHARASHTRA BANDH

REF: BOMBAY 0207

1. FROM ALL REPORTS REACHING US, THE BANDH IN SUPPORT OF THE
STRIKE OF 750,000 MAHARASHTRA STATE EMPLOYEES AT THE 42-DAY
MARK WAS PEACEFUL, OVERWHELMING AND UNPRECEDENTED.

2. "PEACEFUL" BECAUSE OF ITS MASSIVENESS, POLICE VISIBILITY
WAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AND BECAUSE THE
MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS BELONG TO THE "SERVICE" SECTOR - A
GROUP GENERALLY NOT PRONE TO VIOLENCE. ALSO, UNLIKE IN THE
PAST WHEN THE SHIV SENA WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, IN THIS
INSTANCE THEY WERE RESTRAINED, AN EFFORT DESIGNED TO CLEANUP
SHIV SENA'S PAST ROWDY IMAGE IN LIGHT OF THE FORTHCOMING STATE
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ELECTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, NO DOUBT THE FEAR OF VIOLENCE
CAUSED MANY TO STAY HOME.

3. "OVERWHELMING" BECAUSE EXCLUDING THE INTUC ALL UNION
GROUPS JOINED IN THE BANDH. THE PRO-CONGRESS INTUC ALONE
STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE STATE GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT, MOST
TEXTILE MILLS IN BOMBAY WORKED YESTERDAY--STRONG EVIDENCE

THAT THE INTUC AFFILIATED RMMS STILL HOLDS IN THIS SECTOR.
IN NAGPUR AND PUNE (INTUC STRONGHOLDS) INITIAL ATTEMPTS TO
RUN LOCAL AND STATE TRANSPORT BUSES WITH HEAVY POLICE PRO-
TECTION EVENTUALLY FAILED.

4. "UNPRECEDENTED" IS THE WORD USED BY ALL OF OUR CONTACTS
IN DESCRIBING THE TOTALITY OF THE STATEWIDE STOPPAGE. NOTHING
MOVED, OTHER THAN TRAINS, AND ALMOST ALL BUSINESSES AND FAC-
TORIES WERE CLOSED.

5. YESTERDAY'S BANDH WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A MORALE BOOSTER FOR
THE STRIKING STATE WORKERS. THEY NEED IT, FOR THE STATE
GOVERNMENT STILL REFUSES EVEN TO ENTER INTO DIRECT NEGOTIA-
TIONS. THE STRIKE CONTINUES. COURTNEY UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ELAB, IN
To: STATE
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